

# Viewpoint

## Regional agreement on electric vehicles must include relevant stakeholders, support fair competition

By Josh Sharp

To promote electric vehicle (EV) adoption and help establish a nationwide network of EV charging stations, five governors in the Midwest region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota) agreed to join what they term the Regional Electric Vehicle Midwest Coalition.

Based on the group's initiative, the goal of this coalition is to foster increased cooperation between participating states to advance our transportation sector's transition to EVs.

As the governors move forward



with this collaboration, they must do the following: ensure that the private sector is a key stakeholder in these decisions, and advocate for policies that will produce the greatest number of EV charging stations, or risk hindering the transition to EVs.

The most effective strategy for the deployment of EV infrastructure is the same as what resulted in fueling stations being conveniently located across the country—fair competition and private sector investment.

Utility companies are usually at the forefront of lawmakers' minds when it comes to EVs. With the need to meet increased electricity demands to accommodate this initiative, they deserve that consideration in the process. However, utility companies are often provided government

funding AND can use their monopoly on energy production to eliminate competition in the EV charging market.

One anti-competitive advantage that is allowing utility companies to corner this emerging marketplace is demand charges, which are extra fees utility companies charge for electrical usage during peak times to ensure the electrical grid is prepared to withstand energy needs.

Small businesses are often overburdened by these charges, thus discouraged from moving forward with EV charging installations.

Many small fuel stops and convenience stores have tried to join the EV transition and host direct current fast charging (DCFC) stations. These chargers allow EV customers

to charge their cars in a shorter time frame. But, when a DCFS is used, it almost always peaks energy usage, triggering additional fees. When added to the basic cost of electricity, EV chargers quickly become unprofitable. According to research, nearly all businesses operating DCFC chargers lose money.

Another unfair advantage is that utility companies are getting approved to increase fees on their current ratepayers to cover the cost of constructing and operating EV chargers, where convenience stores and other fueling stations must use private capital for this investment.

This ability for utility companies to unfairly compete in this market will inevitably lead to fewer EV charging stations, given how vital the

private sector's role is in fueling our transportation sector. Therefore, the private sector must be among the key stakeholders that are brought to this discussion to create a fair partnership for fund development.

When these governors state they will develop an approach "informed by industry, academic, and community engagement," I hope the private sector will have their voices heard. Small fuel stops were an invaluable asset to creating the interconnected national transportation network we all know today, and they will continue to help forge a new EV future if lawmakers support fair competition.

*Josh Sharp is CEO of the Illinois Fuel and Retail Association in Springfield.*

## IFB president: 2022 priorities indicate changes ahead for agriculture

By Richard Guebert Jr.

The icy winter temps in the Midwest mean a slow season for many. But for Illinois farmers like me, it's the time of year to plan ahead for the spring planting season.

Many in agriculture are already feeling the strain of rising input



costs and fractured supply chains due to the ongoing pandemic. Farmers are worried these issues could be compounded by additional water regulations and unreliable fuel standards, which will drastically impact many family farms.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors, which represents the largest group of farmers in the state, set new priorities for the organization in January. They'll focus on supporting members as

the ag industry faces the challenges ahead.

### Rising input costs

Since the spring of 2020, nearly every person has experienced price fluctuations and supply limitations on products they need. For farmers, fertilizer shortages have made a large dent in business profitability.

Growers are reporting price hikes of more than 300 percent on fertilizer purchases this year.

That's especially significant because fertilizer costs account for approximately 15 percent of the total cash costs for crops.

And the lack of truck drivers and congestion at American ports mean delivery times are anyone's best guess.

If these trends continue, consumers might also see rising prices at the grocery. To curb this issue, we're looking to Congress to help us find solutions.

### Changing water regulations

Last November, the Biden administration announced a plan to return to a previous definition of "waters of the United States." The proposed regulation would repeal the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule and broaden the federal government's authority under the Clean Waters Act.

Farmers are frustrated with the

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CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Dance team places ninth at IHSA state meet

Willowbrook High School's dance team performed at the IHSA competitive dance state meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. Competing against 29 other teams in the state meet's 2A level, Willowbrook earned a 10<sup>th</sup>-place score of 84.0 for its routine during Friday's preliminaries. The top 12 teams from the preliminaries advanced to Saturday's

finals. Willowbrook's performance in the finals received a score of 85.98, good for ninth place in the 2A level. The Willowbrook team qualified for the state meet with its solid performance at the Geneva Sectional on Jan. 22. Members of the team are pictured during the sectional routine.

# Warriors run conference record to 11-0 with a win over Hinsdale South

## Sullivan delivers 30 points in last week's non-conference loss to Maine South

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team improved its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 11-0 with Friday's 62-38 victory over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors pushed their overall season record to 20-4 with Friday's win over the Hornets.

Willowbrook can complete an unblemished 12-0 conference season with a win at Downers Grove South this week.

Two nights before playing Hinsdale South, the Warriors suffered their first home loss of the season. Maine South defeated Willowbrook 71-67 in a non-conference battle in Villa Park on Jan. 26.

Maine South led the Warriors 20-15 after one quarter and 37-26 at halftime. Willowbrook reduced the Hawks' lead to 53-45 by the end of the third quarter. The Warriors continued to cut into Maine South's lead during the fourth quarter, trimming the gap to 69-67 with about 12 seconds to play. The Hawks, who closed out the scoring by making a pair of free throws with 7.1 seconds on the clock, hung on to earn the victory.

"We had way too many turnovers tonight," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after the loss to Maine South. "What really killed us was the second shots. When you give up that many extra shots, you're in trouble."

Senior Sophie Sullivan poured in 30 points for the Warriors during last week's high-scoring battle against Maine South. Sullivan made four of five attempts from 3-point range. She connected on 11 of 15 shots from the field and made all of her free-throw attempts by sinking four foul shots during the fourth quarter.

Willowbrook freshman Hannah Kenny, who made all nine of her free-throw attempts in last week's loss to the Hawks, scored 15 points in the game. She drained seven free-throw attempts during the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Calli Kenny provided nine points for the Warriors in the four-point loss to the Hawks.

Maine South senior Emily Pape scored a school-record 41 points in her team's win over Willowbrook. Pape, who will play for Cornell University's women's basketball team, made 16 of 27 shots from the field against the Warriors. She sank her only 3-point attempt of the game and converted eight of nine free throws.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS: Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team played its final home game of the regular season on Friday. The Warriors defeated Hinsdale South 62-38 in a West Suburban Gold Conference contest. Willowbrook improved to 20-4 overall and 11-0 in conference play. The Warriors can complete a perfect 12-0 conference season with a win at Downers Grove South this week. Senior Sophie Sullivan (above - No. 1) scored 17 points in Friday's win. Freshman Hannah Kenny (top left - No. 10) added 13 points. Another photo from Friday's contest shows senior Elizabeth Garcia (left - No. 11). The Warriors honored their two senior players—Sullivan and Garcia—before Friday's game. The Warriors will open the IHSA post-season on their home court later this month, when they will host a Class 4A regional. If the Warriors win a pair of games to claim the regional title, they will advance to the Bartlett Sectional. Two days before playing Hinsdale South last week, Willowbrook suffered a 71-67 non-conference loss to Maine South in Villa Park. Sullivan made four shots from 3-point range and scored 30 points in the Jan. 26 loss—the Warriors' first home loss of the season. Hannah Kenny, who made all nine of her free-throw attempts against Maine South, provided 15 points.

Friday's win. "We got a little more focused after halftime and picked up the pace."

The Warriors held a 62-27 lead at the end of the third quarter. The lead of at least 30 points triggered a running clock throughout the fourth quarter. The Hornets outscored Willowbrook 11-0 in the final eight minutes.

Sullivan, who made two shots from 3-point range and converted all five of her shots from the free-throw line, scored a team-leading 17 points in Friday's win. Calli Kenny

and Hannah Kenny both scored 13 points, while Bruschuk contributed 10 points. Junior Sara Stout provided six points.

The Warriors will conclude their regular season with next week's cross-over game against the first-place team from the West Suburban Silver Conference. That contest will be played at Addison Trail High School. Willowbrook will begin the IHSA Class 4A post-season by hosting a regional on its home court. If the Warriors can win a regional title in Villa Park, they will advance to the Bartlett Sectional.

Pape scored 15 points in the first half and erupted for 26 points in the second half.

Willowbrook held a 30-20 halftime lead over Hinsdale South in Friday's conference game. The Warriors delivered a 32-7 burst in the third quarter. Their pressure defense pro-

duced several turnovers and a flurry of points. Calli Kenny made a pair of 3-point shots during the third quarter. Sullivan, sophomore Elle Bruschuk and Hannah Kenny each made one 3-point shot during the third period.

"We didn't shoot particularly well in the first half," said Harrell after

# Warriors claim second at the conference meet

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team finished second at Saturday's six-team West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Downers Grove South High School.

The Downers Grove co-op team, which consists of gymnasts from Downers Grove South and Downers Grove North, won the meet title with its total of 140.525. Willowbrook posted a team score of 136.825. Leyden (129.3) finished third, while Addison Trail (123.625) placed fourth. Hinsdale South (123.125) and Morton (98.8) claimed fifth and sixth, respectively.

Willowbrook senior Bella Naumovsky earned the fourth-place medal in the meet's all-around standings. Naumovsky produced an all-around total of 35.0. Three members of the Downers Grove co-op team claimed the top three places in the all-around competition.

Naumovsky's all-around total included scores of 9.1 on the vault, 9.3 on the uneven bars, 8.1 on the balance beam and 8.5 in floor exercises. She finished in a tie for first place on the uneven bars. She wound up third in floor exercises, fourth on the vault and tenth on the balance beam.

Senior Tess Placek of the Warriors

earned a sixth-place finish in the all-around standings of the conference meet with her score of 34.625. Placek delivered a second-place effort on the balance beam; her performance on the beam received a score of 8.9. She finished fourth on the uneven bars (8.35), seventh on the vault (8.875) and eighth in floor exercises (8.5).

Willowbrook junior Sarah Ball placed eighth in the all-around standings by posting a score of 33.625. Ball posted a fourth-place score of 8.85 in floor exercises. She claimed fifth on the balance beam (8.525), eighth on the vault (8.85) and 15<sup>th</sup> on

the uneven bars (7.4).

Willowbrook sophomore Mia McBride finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the all-around standings with her score of 32.625. McBride produced her best showing on the balance beam, posting a third-place score of 8.875.

Junior Hanna Mitrick provided the Warriors with a 14<sup>th</sup>-place score of 31.75 in the all-around standings. That total included a 13<sup>th</sup>-place score of 7.55 on the uneven bars.

Willowbrook won its conference dual meets against Leyden, Addison Trail, Hinsdale South and Morton during the regular season. The Warriors lost their dual meet against the

Downers Grove co-op team on Dec. 8.

The Warriors will compete in this week's four-team IHSA regional at Glenbard West High School. In addition to Willowbrook and Glenbard West, the regional will include Fenton and the St. Charles East/North co-op squad.

The Willowbrook team and its individual gymnasts will try to advance from the regional to a Feb. 10 sectional that will also take place at Glenbard West. The IHSA state meet will be held Feb. 19-20 at Palatine High School.

See photos on page 12.

# •President (Continued from page 8)

federal government's decision to expand federal jurisdiction onto waterways on private lands.

The revised rule would make it difficult for farmers and property owners to decipher where their property will be impacted and create challenges when implementing conservation practices in those areas.

For people whose properties won't be affected by the ruling, this issue might seem trivial. But for family farmers who would lose the right to manage parts of their land, it's a big concern.

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers consider a final rule, the agriculture community would like to see clear terms that are easy to interpret and apply, with flexibilities for landowners to conduct innovative and environmentally beneficial projects.

## Expanding Infrastructure, broadband

As one of the largest producers and exporters of soybeans and corn in the country, Illinois ag has played a critical role in ag trade for decades. Over time, the transportation of commodities has left roads, bridges and

waterways in our state in desperate need of repair.

The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed into law by President Biden last fall works to address the wear and tear on transportation systems across the nation.

As funds make their way to our state, it's important that they're used to rebuild transportation routes that get supplies to farms and, in turn, help farmers get their products to consumers.

Dollars should also be disbursed fairly to rural areas, especially the funds marked for expanding rural broadband.

The need for additional education and telehealth resources has become increasingly important while dealing with fluctuating COVID cases over the past couple of years.

As it stands, many farmers and entrepreneurs in small towns lack the technology they need to improve their businesses.

When large meat packing plants closed their doors early on in the pandemic, small companies stepped up to the plate to fill the need. The situation demonstrated why businesses of all sizes are needed to keep our domestic

food supply strong.

Just imagine the innovation and economic gains that would come with access to reliable, affordable and fast internet in all parts of the state, not just the highly populated areas.

With so much on the table for farm families in 2022, it's critical that they get the tools they need to succeed. The

supply of food, fuel and fiber people depend on relies on the strength of agriculture in our state.

*This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).*

## Warriors overpower Hinsdale South 81-57

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team completed a highly successful January schedule with Friday's 81-57 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Hinsdale South. The victory gave the Warriors an overall record of 15-9 and a conference mark of 6-2.

Willowbrook won 10 of the 11 contests it played during January. The Warriors' only loss of the month was an 82-74 conference setback at Proviso East on Jan. 21. The loss to the Pirates snapped Willowbrook's nine-game winning streak, which began with a win over Glenbard East at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic on Dec. 29.

The Warriors have beaten Hinsdale South twice this season. Willowbrook opened its conference schedule with a 72-57 win over the Hornets on Dec. 3 in Villa Park.

Hinsdale South led the Warriors 18-16 through one quarter of Fri-

day's rematch. The Hornets held a 32-29 advantage at halftime, but Willowbrook heated up in the third quarter, outscoring Hinsdale South 22-9 to take a 51-41 lead with eight minutes to play.

Senior Marquel Saleek scored 25 points for the Warriors in Friday's victory. He also provided nine assists, five rebounds and five steals. Senior Noah Campbell contributed 20 points, six rebounds and three assists.

Junior Joey Tumilty supplied 15 points, three assists and four steals. Senior Terrell Walker scored 11 points and pulled down six rebounds. Junior Isaac Sobieszczyk delivered four points, nine rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes a conference home game against Downers Grove South, as well as this Saturday's non-conference home contest against Romeoville.

## Answers

PUZZLE 1

6	8	4	2	5	1	9	7	3
5	3	2	7	9	6	1	4	8
1	7	9	8	3	4	6	5	2
8	9	1	5	4	3	2	6	7
3	2	5	6	1	7	4	8	9
4	6	7	9	2	8	3	1	5
9	5	6	1	7	2	8	3	4
2	1	3	4	8	5	7	9	6
7	4	8	3	6	9	5	2	1

PUZZLE 2

1	2	5	8	7	6	3	4	9
8	4	3	1	2	9	5	7	6
9	7	6	5	4	3	2	8	1
7	8	4	6	3	5	9	1	2
3	9	2	4	1	7	6	5	8
5	6	1	2	9	8	7	3	4
2	5	8	7	6	1	4	9	3
4	3	7	9	8	2	1	6	5
6	1	9	3	5	4	8	2	7



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Yeah, Villa Park ought to take lessons from Lombard on how to snow plow. They don't leave a pile of snow at the corners where you can't make a turn. Thank you.

I see on the news that Mr. Biden will only consider a black woman for nomination to the Supreme Court. Why is his No. 1 prerequisite someone's race? I couldn't care less what a person's race or gender happens to be if they are being considered for nomination to the Supreme Court. I care about whether a judge is uniquely qualified to serve on the court. Judges shouldn't be considered liberal or conservative. They should judge each case that comes before them on the facts, the law and the Constitution, not a political ideology.

Maybe those of you who worship at the church of Our Fauci of Perpetual COVID can help me out with the indoor mask mandate Pritzker has had in place since last August. Have you ever asked yourselves why all of the states that border Illinois don't

have indoor mask mandates? One more thing: When I'm in a restaurant, I have to wear a mask, except if I am actively eating or drinking. Does the virus automatically go on break when it notices I'm actively eating or drinking?

Hey, Bears fans. Did you notice the new GM's first name is Ryan and the new head coach's first name is Matt? The same first names as the old GM Ryan Pace and the old head coach Matt Nagy. Let's hope the new Ryan can generally manage and the new Matt can coach. I want wins. I don't want any more cheerleading and excuses like we got from the old Ryan and Matt the last four years.

According to Democrats, the 2016 presidential election was stolen by Russian collusion, while the 2020 presidential election was perfectly honest and fair. Biden and the Democrats have already started complaining that the upcoming 2022 congressional elections, in which they will likely be crushed, will somehow be

illegitimate. \*\*\*  
I read where President Biden is set to replace a retiring Supreme Court justice with a woman of color. I have no issue with that on its face, except that it essentially smacks of reverse discrimination. It would seem to me that it is in the best interest of the Supreme Court and our country to appoint the most qualified candidate, no matter the gender/ethnicity/race/religion. To narrow the playing field by color and gender only is certainly not "equal opportunity" by definition. \*\*\*

The Democrats are doing everything they can to seize more power. They want to change the voting laws, change the Constitution, increase the size of the Supreme Court, open the borders, but the big question is: What are they doing with the power they already have? Things seem to be worse since they've had control in Washington. \*\*\*

I wonder how many people will be hoarding the free masks the government is set to give away. I can see it now—just like with toilet paper and hand sanitizer—some selfish people going from store to store and grabbing up more than their fair share,

possibly leaving more vulnerable people without these supposedly more-protective masks. Or worse, trying to sell them to make a profit. Please think about your fellow family, friends and neighbors. \*\*\*

After serving in World War II, my dad always said, watch out for China because they are a sleeping giant. We have them do so much of our work today, and a lot of our manufacturing is no longer available in the USA. If we had a war today, it would take more time to prepare. In my opinion, China gave the world a virus that has divided people and makes us easier to conquer. Even the president's son is reportedly investing in Socialist Communist China. Wake up America, or move over and step aside. \*\*\*

We've reached the 55th anniversary of the 1967 Chicago blizzard. I'm sure some readers will remember that event, which struck our area on Jan. 26-27, 1967. The storm dumped a record-setting 23 inches of snow and included 50 mph winds. I've seen videos and heard people talk about their experiences. I haven't seen any clips from that period of so-called activists ranting about "climate change" immediately after the storm. As others have pointed out,

today's zealots reflexively blame every severe-weather event on "climate change." They also benefit from people's ignorance of history. \*\*\*

Americans are forgiving a generous to the point of being dangerous. Why do dyed-in-the-wool Democrats and the general news media continue to treat all the decisions made by this president like they were made by someone who is stupid? They can see by his actions he has cognitive problems. Biden has become America's bad joke to the rest of the world and world peace. \*\*\*

Once in a while, I take a look at Governor Billionaire's tweets on Twitter. Here is one of his latest, ridiculous posts. Quote: "I've said before and I'll say it again: voting rights are on the ballot in 2022. As long as I'm your governor, we make sure every voter's voice is heard." What nonsense. Whose votes are being suppressed and which voters aren't being heard in this state? Who are they? They need to step forward and tell us exactly how they were not allowed to vote or how their votes were suppressed. Illinois has supermajorities in the House and Senate. The districts are also gerrymandered to favor Democrats.

## Commission accepting nominations for 2021 Green Champion Award

*Nominations are due by March 17*

The Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission advises the village president and board of trustees on matters relating to the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including the quality of land, air and water.

In 2016, the commission created its Green Champion award program to recognize any outstanding environmental achievements of individuals, groups, organizations or companies in Villa Park.

The annual certificate will be presented in one of the following nine categories: Energy efficiency; Renewable energy; Conservation of natural resources; Recycling programs and use of recycled content products; Green produce use and use of recycled content materials; Water conservation; Transportation; Outreach and education; Other innovative projects and programs.

### How do I nominate a deserving candidate?

You can submit an online nomination form by accessing the Village of Villa Park website and searching for Green Champion Award or using the link on the Commission's web page. When accessing the online form please use the username public@

[villaparkvillage.com](http://villaparkvillage.com) and password "public". A print version nomination form is also available at <http://www.invillapark.com/DocumentCenter/View/6355/Green-Champion-Award-Nomination-Form> and may be submitted to the Village of Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission by email at [EnvironmentalConcerns@invillapark.com](mailto:EnvironmentalConcerns@invillapark.com) or to the Village of Villa Park (Attn: Environmental Concerns Commission) 20 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181.

Nominations are accepted for residential and nonresidential properties in Villa Park and may be submitted by property owners, business owners and by others who feel a project or site deserves recognition.

Nomination forms will be kept on file for future consideration for a period of no more than two years from the date of submission.

Nominations are due by March 17 for consideration by the Environmental Concerns Commission for the previous year's award. In most instances, the commission will present the award at a Villa Park Village Board meeting around Earth Day—April 22. For more information, contact Commission chair Bob Wagner at 630-484-8856.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

**Warriors compete at WSG meet**

Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team competed in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Downers Grove South High School. The Warriors finished second in the team standings of the six-team event. The Downers Grove co-op team won the meet title with its score of 140.525. Willowbrook posted a team score of 136.825. One photo from the meet shows Willowbrook senior Tess Placek (above left) during her second-place performance on the balance beam. Another photo shows sophomore Mia McBride (above middle) of the Warriors, who delivered a third-place score on the beam. One more photo shows Willowbrook junior Sarah Ball (above right) during her fourth-place performance in floor exercises. Senior Bella Naumovsky of Willowbrook placed fourth in the conference meet's all-around standings. Placek delivered a sixth-place finish in the all-around competition. Ball placed eighth in the all-around scoring, while McBride and junior Hanna Mitrick finished 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The Warriors will begin the IHSA post-season by competing in this week's Glenbard West Regional.